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State GOP chair visits campus

Ole Miss alum explains why Republicans succeeded in 2016 election

JEANNE TORP
STAFF WRITER

Ole Miss College Republicans welcomed alumnus Joe Nosef, state chairman of the Mississippi Republican Party, as the guest speaker at its fall kickoff meeting held Wednesday. Nosef spoke about Republican victory in the 2016 election and the importance of voter knowledge and party involvement.

“Voting is the whole point of being in a democracy and being part of a party,” Nosef said.

Nosef is no stranger to the Ole Miss campus. He received an undergraduate and master’s degree in accounting in 1991 and 1994, respectively, from the university and graduated from the School of Law in 1995.

Nosef has long been involved in Republican politics, holding positions such as chief counsel and campaign manager for Gov. Haley Barbour, chief of staff under Lt. Gov. Phil Bryant, executive director of the Phil Bryant Gubernatorial Transition, chairman of the Mississippi Republican Party and vice chairman of the Republican National Committee.

In addition to his roles within the Republican Party, Nosef has practiced law for more than 20 years

in the Jackson area. In his practice, Nosef focuses on a wide variety of areas, including government relations, taxation and tax credits and environmental estate planning and administration.

Nosef said he understood that voters were looking for change in the 2016 election, a change he claims the Republican Party was able to offer with President Donald Trump.

“One of the reasons Trump was elected was to change things in Washington,” Nosef said.

Nosef pointed out the party is coming out of its decline since the 2016 election, learning from its past mistakes and moving with the changes of the political world.

Nosef compared some of the backlash to Trump’s policies to some of his own experiences from when he ran for student vice president while in law school.

“It’s much harder to govern

than to get elected,” he said.

Nosef also highlighted the importance of knowing

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Joe Nosef

PHOTO BY: JEANNE TORP

Cycling Club launches bike races across Oxford trails

KARA DUDAS BELLONE
ETHEL MWEDZIWENDIRA
SPECIAL CONTRIBUTORS

The Ole Miss Cycling Club is looking to build its relationship with Oxford and the university through a monthlong stint of weekly races designed to bring together recreational and professional riders.

This month, the Cycling Club will host a 1.7-mile race around the South Campus Rail Trail, formerly known as Whirlpool Trails every Thursday in September. Club leaders hope to create a bond between university and city bikers of all skill levels.

The series’ goals reach beyond just getting a small, tight-knit group passionate about biking together once a week but rather raising community awareness of the group and its objectives.

“We definitely want to grow,” Pete Dawkins, president of the Cycling Club, said. “Getting involved in our community as much as we can is important to us and attracting people that wouldn’t necessarily be into biking or aren’t educated in bike racing.”

The course is an extreme loop of twists, turns and uphill and downhill terrain,

according to Peter Reed, the Ole Miss Cycling Club adviser. The university owns the land which is maintained by various volunteer groups. Maintenance for the series is done to ensure citizen accessibility. In preparation for the cycling series, the club has been clearing up seasonal debris since the start of the month.

“We’ve been out here clearing some of the trails, and tomorrow we are going to rake some of the strong trees in the area so it will be a little better surface,” Dawkins said. “In the summer, it gets kind of overgrown, so we went in with a ratchet and a garden hoe to fix the weeds.”

Campus Recreation maintains the main rail bed trail, by submitting requests to university and city landscaping departments and addressing erosion problems.

Shannon Richardson, assistant director of Campus Recreation, said that Campus Recreation updates the kiosks at the mile markers and replenishes dog waste bag dispensers.

Creating a more user-friendly trail is just one step the Cycling Club has taken to make the series ap-

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Sardis Lake cleanup event hopes to boost participation

JORDAN HOLMAN
STAFF WRITER

The 41st annual cleanup day of Sardis Lake is set for Saturday. Last year, around 75 volunteers collectively gathered more than two tons of trash. The Vicksburg District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Mugshots Grill and Bar are collaborating this year to lead the cleanup effort.

This year marks the first year of Mugshots and the Army Corps of Engineers jointly hosting the annual event. The Army

Corps of Engineers has been involved since the inaugural event in 1976.

“It began with me going out to Sardis Lake on the weekends to help out,” Will Jordan, manager of Mugshots’ Oxford location, said. “I talked with my staff about the situation, and we just wanted to do our part.”

Volunteers usually include university students and families from the community. Houston Hartley, member of the Army Corps of Engineers and coordinator of the event, anticipates a mixture of new and returning

volunteers.

“We’ve promoted it more on social media this year, so we’re hoping to see a larger turnout than usual,” he said.

Hartley said he hopes a large portion of the volunteers will be university students who have contributed to the littering situation at Sardis. However, students are by no means the only ones responsible for the situation.

According to Shirley J. Smith with the Public Affairs Office

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PHOTO BY TAYLAR TEEL

Saturday is the 41st annual cleanup day at Sardis Lake. Last year, around 75 volunteers collectively gathered more than two tons of trash.

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COLUMN

Online language homework inhibits learning



FRANCISCO HERNANDEZ
STAFF COLUMNIST

Introductory language courses should have two main purposes: teaching the basics and developing the student's interest in the language so he or she has an incentive to continue studying it.

Since these goals seem like such common sense, I am surprised to see that intro-level language courses almost always require students to purchase and use online platforms that fail at both effectively teaching and awakening any sort of interest in a language.

If you have taken one of these language courses, you are probably familiar with the so-called "language labs." If you haven't already, you can start fearing them now.

Starting with their name – it seems like the word "lab" lost its scientific meaning somewhere in the marketing process – almost everything about these platforms is absurd.

After costing around \$100 for a one-semester subscription, the online platform posts sets of homework with a long list of activities due once every week, sometimes twice a week. These activities, while often consisting of no more than 10 questions each, become repetitive and tedious when in sets of 40 or more. In a set of homework, for example, you might get five consecutive activities on how to say "hello" and "goodbye."

The way the platform corrects your answers is also very frustrating. A missing accent mark, a simple typo or a correct answer that the computer system is not programmed to recognize can make you redo a whole exercise.

Also, the due dates for each homework package do not seem to follow any specific pattern: one week, homework might be due Monday, while the week after, you might have one due Tuesday and another due Thursday.

The website doesn't bother

sending reminders, so you have to stay on top these random due dates if you want to avoid missing a homework or having to run to your computer at 11:30 p.m. and rush to finish by 11:59 p.m. You might end up enjoying those weekly adrenaline rushes, those little races against time with only a computer screen in between you and your very modest victory.

However, these online "labs" have negative effects on students' learning and even worse consequences for their interest in the language. Though the repetitive nature of the homework could favor memorization of important terms and grammar structures, it actually mechanizes the thought of students and prevents them from applying that knowledge to real-life situations outside the artificial scenarios of the homework.

It's not hard to understand why these online platforms discourage and disengage students. They are ultimately a part of why many students regard intro-level courses as necessary pains to fulfill the general requirements of their degrees, when they should see them as privileged opportunities

to learn a language.

Of course, these subscriptions are a gold mine for publishers since there's no way around the price of online access codes. You can buy or rent a used book, but you must buy a shiny, new access code that expires after several months. And since these platforms are usually responsible for 10 percent of the grade, not purchasing them can account for the difference between an A and a B.

I would be tempted to call online "language labs" a scam if it weren't for the fact that scams at least carry some degree of deception for those being scammed. "Language labs," however, are not deceiving anyone; we all know they are more painful than useful.

In an era when resources for language-learning are easily available and mostly free online, there should be no room for these archaic, overpriced and ineffective platforms. Intro-level language courses should stop being complicit.

Francisco Hernandez is a senior international studies major from Valencia, Spain.

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Letters should include phone and email contact information so that editors can verify authenticity. Letters from students should include grade classification and major; letters from faculty and staff should include title and the college, school or department where the person is employed.



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CYCLING
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pealing to bikers of all skill levels, in addition to affordability and inclusion efforts. Each ride is \$5 per racer, and the group is working on making personal prizes to help participants feel welcomed in friendly competition.

Dawkins said he does not want lack of experience to discourage people from joining. The group, instead, wants people to come out and challenge themselves. “We want people to come out every week and see how they improve and stack up against themselves. And for the casual riders, how they can improve every week,” Dawkins said.

Reed said there is group learning between the club and the community and that hopefully the series can strengthen that relationship.

“It’s a chance to learn the local trails in a safe setting,” Reed said. “If people are intimidated, they should know that everyone’s welcome; there’s no judgment, only positive support, and they can do it on even a basic trail bike – fancy equipment and spandex is not at all necessary.”

For the cycling club, this series serves as a comeback and a way for it to make a name on campus because of its on-again, off-again presence over the past few years. Founded in 2011, the group was stagnant for a few years.

It resurfaced in 2014 to encourage cycling on the Ole Miss campus and Oxford area. Since then, the cycling team has worked with the university to expand community involvement.

“When I came here in 2014, me and my friend Ben started the club back up,” Dawkins said. “So in 2014, it was me and Ben that got it going back up again. We’ve

just been trying to grow the club since then. We want to establish it to be a solid annual thing that people look forward to every year and also bringing the whole cycling community together.”

William Tribble, Ole Miss Cycling Club treasurer, said knowledge and awareness of biking through the series is as important as the friendly competition.

“Hopefully we can eventually attract cyclists from surrounding communities to come compete, too,” Tribble said. “The more people that bike, the safer every other biker is in the community.”

The Whirlpool Time Trial Series is roughly 2 miles with a pre-course starting at 5:30 p.m. and race beginning at 6 p.m. The series will continue every Thursday in September at the South Campus Rail Trail.

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of the Vicksburg District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, throughout the year, approximately 1.3 million people visit Sardis Lake. Boating, fishing and general recreational use put pressure on the ecosystem, and events like the cleanup day are the Army Corps of Engineers’ way of restoring the environment.

“We are fulfilling our recreational mission to protect and preserve the resources at Sardis Lake for this generation and future generations to come,” Smith said.

The resources of Sardis Lake, located in Lafayette, Marshall and Panola counties, have a significant impact on the local economy – generating around \$26 million a year.

“The lake has had so many visitors per year that it has become an integral part of the local economy,” Smith said.

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the views of one’s party.

“Uneducated party speakers is one of the biggest problems in politics,” Nosef said.

He also commented on the importance of being involved in local politics and the voting process and forming welcoming, good relationships with those holding opposing views.

“You don’t have to bad relationships with someone with opposing views, both politically and personally,” Nosef said.

Nancy Frohn, the founder



PHOTO BY TAYLAR TEEL

With more than 1.3 million visitors a year, trash seems to collect along the Sardis Lake shoreline.

Smith said maintaining a clean environment remains vital to both the lake’s ecosystem and the town’s economy.

Besides the economic value of Sardis Lake, the lake has been used for flood control in northern Mississippi since 1940. Since it became operational, the Army Corps of Engineers’ website writes, the lake’s dam has prevented flooding in 1973, 1983 and 1991.

Smith said most students, however, do not know the im-

portance of Sardis Lake as a dam or economic boon to northern Mississippi. Rather, Sardis Lake has been a place to boat, hike, fish, hunt and camp.

“Sardis Lake not only has economic and protective value, but cultural, as well,” Smith said.

Trash pickup begins 8 a.m. Saturday. This year, Mugshots is providing free lunch to the first 50 participants and hopes to involve the larger corporation of Mugshots, not just the Oxford location, in the future.

publican Party.

“This involvement makes me very excited for the future of our country,” Frohn said.

Nosef also said he believed groups like College Republicans are beneficial in today’s political climate.

“It’s great to hear directly from people involved in the Republican Party and people who can provide students with the ability to be involved on a real, practical basis,” Nosef said.

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Nashville folk group brings nostalgia to Proud Larry's

JESSICA DUFFIELD
STAFF WRITER

Nashville-based folk-rock group Sun Seeker is coming back to Oxford to perform at 9 p.m. Friday at Proud Larry's.

The band plans to open the show with its new song "Churchill," with Alex Benick on guitar and vocals, Asher Horton on bass guitar and vocals and Ben Parks on drums and vocals.

Benick, Horton and Parks started playing music in January 2003 and have been working their way up the industry ladder since the eighth grade.

"We used to go to downtown Nashville and play music on the street," Benick said.

After a long time of getting to know each other and playing different types of music, the band members started to realize they could make something big out of it. They quickly became favorites on the Nashville scene.

Their music features a

distinct country folk-rock sound with tight harmonies and raw, honest lyrics. The melodies fill the air with a sense of nostalgia and melancholy, calling back to a simpler time and reminding listeners of long summer nights spent driving down winding back roads, blasting the radio.

Fans of '60s legend The Band, '90s rockers Pavement and even the Beatles and The Beach Boys will find themselves tapping their feet and getting groovy with Sun Seeker's hip beats.

Benick said the band members enjoy playing all the music they've written, but the one song they are particularly looking forward to performing is their single "Won't Keep Me Up at Night." He said they play it differently live than in their recording.

This will be the second time Sun Seeker performs on the Proud Larry's stage.

Benick said he feels comfortable every time he goes on stage, and the band members hype each other up like they're going to go



PHOTO COURTESY: BIG HASSLE

play a football game.

He said the band name came from a Goodwill sweatshirt that had a picture of a Native American riding a horse.

"It was my favorite sweatshirt, and it said something like 'Sunseeker,'" Benick said. "I am a fashionista."

The band has been on the road since kicking off its tour Tuesday in Athens, Georgia. The tour will run through Dec. 5, ending in Indianapolis.

Court Blankenship, Sun Seeker's manager, said the band will use the time between runs to record its

highly anticipated debut album.

Benick, Horton and Parks said they like to connect with fans and deliver a positive message about music every time they go on stage.

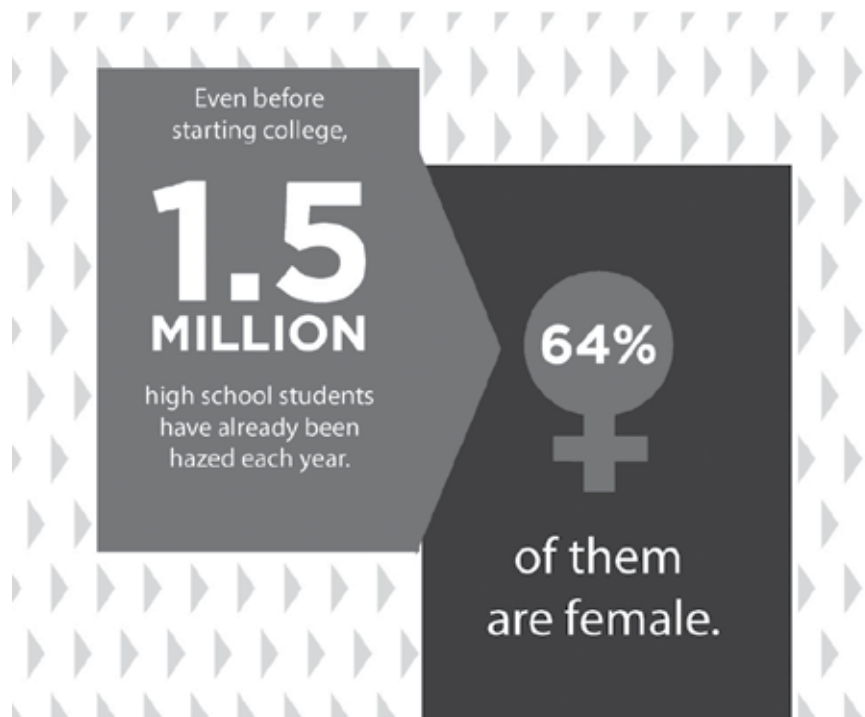
"We are young people in a band, so we like to encourage young people to do what they can to make their band successful, not to think it's an unreachable task," Benick said.

Benick said they also want young musicians to realize that to be young and to play music is not an impossible dream; instead, it's a goal that needs to be pursued without the need to be a stereotypical band.

"We really like to connect with show-goers," Benick said.

Benick said the band is excited to sing new songs Saturday that fans have not yet heard.

Doors will open at 8 p.m., and tickets can be bought online on the Proud Larry's website or Sun Seeker's website. Tickets will be \$8, and the event is 18 and over.



For more information visit
umatter.olemiss.edu



‘Insecure’ season 2 wraps with tears, laughter

JESSICA DUFFIELD
STAFF WRITER

The sophomore season of “Insecure” left fans laughing but also in tears at times as they wrapped up the season with shocking conclusions.

“Insecure” depicts Issa Dee’s life with authenticity and comedy through relatable experiences. After a bad breakup, Issa fully embraces the single life and tries to jump back on the dating scene with the support of her friend Molly.

However, Molly has problems of her own that are both professional and personal. As a lawyer, she feels unappreciated at her current law firm, and as a woman, she searches for a love similar to her parents’. Lawrence, Issa’s ex-boyfriend, has a difficult time adjusting to the single life as he rebounds with his bank teller and co-worker while also trying to maintain his “good guy” image. The problems of Issa, Molly and Lawrence are carefully laid out on the table during the season finale.

Writers approached the final episode in a different way by switching the structure. This time around, the show was split into 30-day segments told from the different perspectives of Issa, Molly and Lawrence. This structure gave an insight into how each character responded to situations differently and also left viewers on the edge of their seats.

Issa, Molly and Lawrence’s segments all started at a 5k run. Lawrence’s presence at the run wasn’t initially known to Issa nor Molly, but he spotted Issa first, and his demeanor instantly changed, as if a dark cloud were present. Issa just happened to be looking

away during a conversation with friends when she spotted Lawrence with his new “boo.” The look of hurt on Issa’s face was only a portion of the great acting that made this episode.

By Issa and Lawrence’s reaction to each other at the 5k run, there was no doubting the unfinished business between the two. The show reached an emotional peak when the two finally met in their old apartment to discuss what went wrong with their relationship. The performance of the two was phenomenal as they both fought tears during this conversation, which made it more realistic for viewers. The outcome of the conversation led Issa into a dream sequence of what could have been. She pictured Lawrence asking her to marry him and them spending the rest of their lives with each other.

This dream sequence captured the essence of “Insecure,” a show that is based off of relatable experiences like imagining a life with your ex even after the breakup. Touching on social topics is also an essence of “Insecure.”

The finale also highlighted Issa’s view on gentrification. Issa noticed how a particular neighborhood was being renovated to conform to middle-class taste. A family-owned restaurant was replaced with a modern salon. This reminded her of the gentrification of her own neighborhood, one of the reasons she decided to move out of her apartment.

Another interesting aspect of this finale was the couch.

The couch had great significance in Issa and Lawrence’s relationship. It was something they shared when they were together, and it was also where they shared a lot of meaningful memories. When

Issa called to tell Lawrence she thought he should have it, the couch opened the door for them to have a conversation they needed to have. Their relationship started and ended with the couch. In the last scene of the finale, when Issa arrived at an old fling’s house, she mentioned sleeping on the couch. This gave way to new beginnings.

Molly found herself stuck

between “what could” be and “what should” be in her professional and personal life this episode. She felt like she should stay at her law firm even though she felt unappreciated. On the other hand, she could go to a different law firm, where she would be provided the pedestal she deserved. In regards to love, she had someone who she knew would adore her, opposed to

someone who was a part of an open marriage. Although Molly seemed to have it all together, her decision-making proved she’s only human.

All in all, this episode lived up to the hype of the previous episodes. Now, fans must wait for the third season to see Issa’s innovative hairstyles and epic mirror monologues.

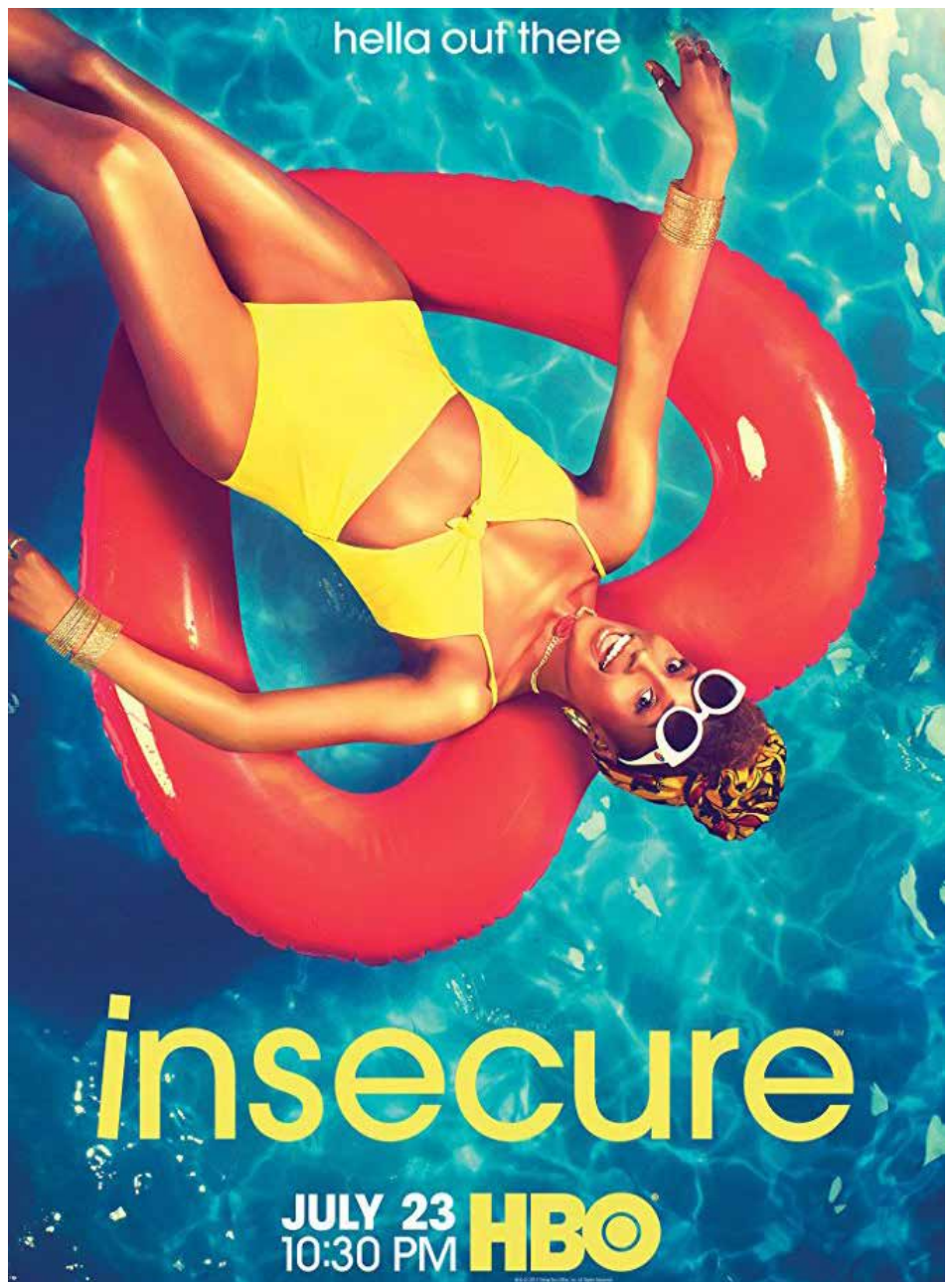


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Wait begins for Committee on Infractions verdict

ETHAN WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Tuesday night marked the end of the NCAA Committee on Infractions hearing involving Ole Miss and the 21 allegations the program is facing.

The hearing, which took place in Covington, Kentucky, had initially been allotted three days for completion but wrapped up after two daylong sessions. Fourteen of the 21 allegations made against Ole Miss were heard and put to the test Monday, with the remaining seven finishing up late Tuesday.

Throughout the two days, various accused and involved parties pleaded their cases to the panel. The panel consisted of Carol Cartwright, president Emerita at Kent State and Bowling

Green State Universities; Bobby Cremins, former head men's basketball coach at Georgia Tech and College of Charleston; Joel Maturi, retired director of athletics at University of Minnesota, Twin Cities; Eleanor Myers, associate professor of law emerita and interim associate dean for students at Temple University; Larry Parkinson, director of the Office of Enforcement at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; and Jill Pilgrim, attorney and co-founder of Precise Advisory Group. The committee, headed by Chief Hearing Officer Greg Christopher, director of athletics at Xavier University, will review the hearing and determine an official ruling within the next six to eight weeks.

The much-anticipated finale to the NCAA's multiple yearslong case against Ole

Miss included a variety of actors, some still with the university, some former staffers and others not even affiliated with the university. In attendance for the entirety of the hearing included former Ole Miss head coach Hugh Freeze; his replacement, Matt Luke; Athletics Director Ross Bjork; Chancellor Jeff Vitter; current assistants Maurice Harris and Derrick Nix; and former staffers Barney Farrar and Chris Kiffin.

Also in attendance (for at least portions of the hearing) was Mississippi State linebacker Leo Lewis, who allegedly received up to \$15,000 from a booster and free merchandise from Oxford fan shop Rebel Rags.

The two-day meeting saw all of the various case players answer questions and plead their cases for their respective allegations. The university, which faces 15 Level I allegations out of the 21 total, admitted to some and fought others.

One of the biggest areas of contention was the dreaded "lack of institutional control" allegation, potentially the biggest of the Level I infractions, imposed on Freeze and the school. Ole Miss fully denies this charge and hopes to avoid the severe consequences that can result from being found guilty of this particular allegation alone.

Back in the spring, Ole Miss self-imposed a bowl ban for the current season and a reduction of 11 scholarships over four years. While



Head coach Hugh Freeze walks off the field after Ole Miss' loss to SEC rival LSU last year.

these self-imposed sanctions by themselves will affect recruiting and the public image in the foreseeable future, the COI could hand down even more devastating punishments, should it find Ole Miss guilty.

From an extended bowl ban to an increased reduction in scholarships to even the rare but plausible "death penalty" (a minimum one-season ban on participation in a certain sport), Ole Miss is facing very serious implications that rest entire-

ly on the hands of the committee.

The future of Ole Miss football is not clear, but it will certainly be affected by the events that transpired in Covington, Kentucky, on Monday and Tuesday. While the team's fate hangs in the balance, Ole Miss will have its head coach back in Oxford for the remainder of the practice week and will focus on its road trip to California to take on an undefeated Cal Golden Bears team Saturday.

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47 Warrior's horse
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52 Truth stretcher
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HOW TO PLAY
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 with no repeats.
DIFFICULTY LEVEL

EASY

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Soccer opens SEC play on road against No. 7 Florida

MAGGIE CROUCH
STAFF WRITER

The No. 24 Ole Miss women's soccer team will play in its first conference game against No. 7 Florida at 6 p.m. Thursday night in Gainesville.

This is the team's first SEC matchup of the season, and it will certainly put the unbeaten Rebels to the test. So far, coach Matt Mott has been thoroughly impressed with the team's performance and the success it has found this early in the season.

"I don't know if I saw this team gelling this soon," Mott said at a press conference Monday night. "They really have gelled together this year, and Foster Channing is leading the conference with nine goals, and CeCe Kizer is right behind her with eight goals."

Channing and Kizer, alongside goalkeeper Marnie Merritt, have led the 7-0-1 Rebels to a season full of shutouts and seemingly endless goals. With nine of their 10 games ending in shutouts and 38 goals already scored this season, Mott and the Rebels are optimistic heading into the bulk of their conference schedule.

"This is the deepest team I have ever had and one of the best backlines we have ever had," Mott said. "This team has ability and feels good about scoring. They want to score and just go at it."

The Rebels' opponent on Thursday night has also had a solid start to its season and a confidence of its own. The



PHOTO BY: V BILLY SCHUERMAN

Channing Foster scoots around the defense in an attempt on target during the game against Lamar University. Ole Miss wins 3-0.

Florida Gators, who have won five of their six games, racked up 15 goals and three shutouts, with their biggest win coming 3-2 over No. 2 Stanford at home.

Last year, when Ole Miss and Florida faced each other in Oxford, the Rebels lost 0-3 to the Gators. This added a loss to the all-time record of 2-20-1 between the two in-conference rivals.

Coming off of two huge victories this past weekend in the Memphis tournament, where they shut out Tulsa 4-0 and Memphis 1-0, the Rebels are looking to continue their five-game win streak with a statement win against the Gators in

Gainesville.

"We had another very good weekend winning the Memphis Invitational Tournament," Mott said at a press conference Monday night. "Really happy with the group, and we're going to keep moving along."

Mott said he is particularly impressed with the number of goals the Rebels have scored, but he knows that may change as they head into SEC play.

"I don't think we are going to score eight goals against anyone, but we are going to continue to attack, for sure," Mott said. "I think we can score – not to the level that we have been scoring,

but there are goals out there we can get."

While the offense is the obvious highlight of the 2017 season, the Rebel backline and defense haven't gone unnoticed, either, especially in the game against Memphis last Sunday.

"We have been scoring a ton, but the defense has really not had a lot to do, and they were tested by a very good Memphis team that has scored a ton of goals this year," Mott said. "Keep-

ing them off the board was huge, and Marnie Merritt was excellent in goal."

The Rebels will take on the Gators at 6 p.m. on SECN+. Ole Miss was supposed to continue on to DeLand, Florida, to face Stetson University on Sunday, but that match has been canceled due to the effects of Hurricane Irma. The Rebels' next game will be next Thursday at home against Georgia.

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Championship-style belt motivates Rebel receivers

BEN MILLER
STAFF WRITER

New receivers coach Jacob Peeler is a rising star in the coaching world. He ventured over from the University of California, Berkeley (whom the Rebels face on the road this weekend) during the tumultuous offseason and needed a way to immediately motivate the receiving corps. He found that motivation in an unconventional source: the Nasty Wide Outs belt.

During the season opener against South Alabama, Ole Miss receiver Damarkus Lodge became something of a Twitter sensation when he appeared on the sideline sporting an NWO wrestling title belt after scoring a touchdown. The belt appeared several times throughout the game and then made a return in the following week's home win against UT Martin. The belt, inscribed with the words "Nasty Wide Outs," generated a host of questions from sports fans nationwide.

Those questions were put to rest once and for all by Peeler in a recent press conference.

"It's a camaraderie deal. It's our identity," Peeler said without any hint of irony. "I want us to go out there and be the

nastiest group on the field – within the rules of the game, of course."

He made it clear that his wrestling belt, much like his receiving corps, is no gag. His team is the real deal, and Peeler said he came with a mission.

"When we walk through those white lines, I want everyone to know who we are," Peeler said.

So far, the Rebels are making their case for recognition exceptionally well, with 918 yards and nine touchdowns through the air in just two games.

On his first day on the job, Peeler introduced the concept of awarding the belt to a new champion every week. The competition has created some serious motivation for his very young group of receivers. He said however, the champion is not crowned (or belted) exactly as one would expect.

"It could be anything," Peeler said. "It could be a test, or playing Madden against each other double elimination or whatever."

Peeler said brotherhood is important to him, and he has worked to instill that feeling in his corps of dangerous wideouts.

"We make it fun," he said. "It's our own fraternity within our team."

Buying into head coach Matt



PHOTO BY: HENRY CLARK

Assistant coach and wide receivers coach Jacob Peeler speaks during the press conference Tuesday.

Luke's emphasis on family, Peeler plays the role of a player coach. He said he makes the experience of being a Rebel personal and tries to keep the limelight away from his own name.

"They do what they want with it," he says. "The belt is a physical symbol of the players having earned something for them-

selves, and the freedom they are granted with it gives a sense of importance to the player, a sense of glory which might normally fall on a coach and a sense of personal and group success.

In a program rich with tradition, Peeler is making his mark. From day one, Peeler stamped his name into the headlines and

into the hearts of his players. Though his approach is new, out-of-the-box and frankly quite strange, Peeler is assimilating well into the Ole Miss family. Only the future will tell if the wacky tradition will live on alongside the success of the "Nasty Wide Outs."


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